

REMARKS

I. Summary of Office Action

In the Office Action dated August 10, 2005, the Examiner issued a three-way restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121. The three groups identified were I) claims 1-6, drawn to a SYSTEM FOR DETECTING INCOMING LIGHT FROM A LASER SOURCE; II) claims 7-18, drawn to A METHOD FOR DETECTING A SOURCE OF AN INCOMING LASER; and III) claims 19-21, drawn to a METHOD FOR RECIPROCAL TARGETING OF A SOURCE OF AN INCOMING LASER.

In addition, the Examiner objected to the title of the invention as not being descriptive. The Examiner also rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by published U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0208596 A1 (Bringans), and rejected claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over a combination of Bringans and published U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 6,660,988 B2 (Lee).

II. Status of the Claims

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement, but provisionally elect Group 1 (claims 1-6), without prejudice to pursue the other Groups in one or more divisional applications. Applicants have also amended the title of the application to read: “A System For Detecting Incoming Light From a Remote Laser Source.”

In addition, Applicants have amended claim 1, and added claims 22-23. Now pending in this application are claims 1-6 and 22-23, of which claim 1 is independent, and the rest are dependent.

The invention as claimed in each of claims 1-6 and 22-23 includes a system for detecting incoming light from a remote laser source comprising (i) a first array having a plurality of lenses positionable using actuators, (ii) a second array having a plurality of opto devices operable to detect incoming light from the said remote laser source, and (iii) at least one processor in communication with at least one actuator of the plurality of actuators and at least one opto device of the plurality opto devices.

III. Response to Rejections

a. Response to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection of Claims 1 and 2

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bringans. For a reference to anticipate a claim, the cited reference must teach each and every element of the claim. MPEP § 2131. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1 and 2 because as amended, Bringans fails to teach each and every element of claims 1 and 2. Namely, Bringans fails to teach “detecting incoming light from a remote laser source.”

Bringans teaches a method of maintaining optimal light beam transmission between two closely spaced subsystems that lie within a larger system. See Abstract. The first subsystem in Bringans contains a microlens assembly and a light source, wherein the microlens assembly directs light from the light source onto an area surrounding the second subsystem. See Figures 1, 4, and page 1, paragraph 0007. The second subsystem contains a receiver capable of receiving light from the said light source and measuring the strength of the incident light signal. See Figures 1, 4, and page 2, paragraph 0025. To obtain optimal light beam transmission, the second subsystem of Bringans is moved through a series of predefined positions. See Figure 4. The strength

of the light signal from the light source of the first subsystem onto the receivers of the second subsystem is then measured and recorded. See page 1, paragraph 0007. Thereafter, the position of the second subsystem is assigned to a location where the strength of the light signal onto the second subsystem is the strongest. See page 1, paragraph 0007.

However, Bringans fails to teach or disclose a method of “detecting incoming light from a remote laser source.” As noted above, Bringans teaches a method of measuring the strength of a light signal that originates from a first subsystem, and is emitted onto a second subsystem. However, the two said subsystems lie within the same optical interconnect system. See page 1, paragraph 0007. As such, Bringans fails to teach a method of “detecting incoming light from a remote laser source.”

As such, Bringans fails to teach each and every element of claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. As claim 2 includes each and every limitation of claim 1, Applicants also respectfully submit that claim 2 is in condition for allowance as well. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

b. Response to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection of Claims 3-6

The Examiner rejected claims 3-6 as being obvious over a combination of Bringans and Lee. Under MPEP § 2143, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of a claim from a combination of references, the Examiner must establish that the combination discloses or suggests every element recited in the claim. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 3-6, because the combination of Bringans and Lee fails to disclose or suggest every element of claims 3-6.

Claims 3-6 all ultimately depend from claim 1 and thus include all of the limitations of claim 1. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that Bringans fails to teach a method of “detecting incoming light from a remote laser source,” and thus fails to teach the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, Bringans fails to teach the limitations of claims 3-6.

Further, Applicants submit that Lee fails to make up for the deficiency of Bringans. Lee teaches a method of fabricating Focal Plane Arrays (FPAs). However, Lee makes no mention of “detecting incoming light from a remote laser source,” such as a laser that is used for targeting purposes in the context of military applications.

Consequently, the combination of Bringans and Lee fails to disclose or suggest all of the limitations of claims 3-6, and thus a *prima facie* case for claims 3-6 has not been made.

CONCLUSION

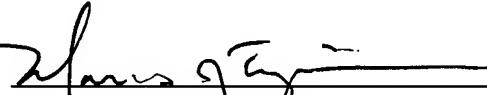
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants thus respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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